(b) whether the Pilots Association has drawn the attention of the Government to the specific locations; and

(c) whether Government propose to consult the Pilots Association and close down the airports till adequate runways are constructed and other facilities installed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) All the airports, managed by National Airoprts Authority and International Airports Authority of India, having operation of commercial air services have runways for safe landing and take-off.

(b) and (c) The Indian Commercial Pilots Association had drawn attention to the question of upgradation of navigational and landing aids at certain airports. The matter was referred for arbitration to Director General of Civil Aviation, who after hearing the Pilots and other concerned Associations, has given his Award, which has been published in the Gazette of India on 18.3.93.

Air India Passengers Stranged at IGI Airport

1556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "AI passengers stranded in hotel lobby" as reported in the Indian Express dated the 18th February, 1993;

(b) if so, whether nearly 300 passengers fo Air India flight were stranded at the IGI airport for over 27 hours and spent night in the lobby of the Centaur hotel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the passengers were treated badly and the authorities made no arrangements for their say etc.; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Due to a technical snag, Air India flight AI-302 of 16.2.93 did not take off from Delhi at the scheduled time of departure at 7.10 PM. Time for snag rectification was initially estimated as forty five minutes. However, when the rectification work continued beyond this period, the passengers were served dinner on board the aircraft. After 10 P.M., when it became clear that the snag could not be rectified 295 passengers and seven infants disemborked. Due to shortage of hotel rooms, only twenty passengers could be accommdated in hotels; fifty one passengers opted to go to their residence and the remaining passengers were accommodated at Centaur Hotel Lobby with special arrangements.

Strengthening of security of Airports

1557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAI BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVI AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of th high level probe into security lapse leading to the recent hijacking Delhi-Srinagar Indian Airlines plane

(b) what action has been taken b Government against those found re ponsible for the security lapse; and

(c) what measures have been take by Government to strengthen tl security at the airports to avoid su incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVI TION AND TOURISM (SH